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VERIFICATION IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF VERIFICATION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerzy ZALESKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 45/65 of 4 December 1990.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October 1992, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 65, 68 and 142; and 67 and 69. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 21st meetings, from 12 to 28 October (see A/C.1/47/PV.3-21). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place between the 22nd and 30th meetings, from 29 October to 11 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.22-30). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 31st and 40th meetings, from 12 to 25 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.31-40).

4. In connection with item 52, the First Committee had before it the following document: report of the Secretary-General on verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification (A/47/405 and Add.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/47/L.42 AND REV.1

5. On 30 October, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain and Sweden submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification" (A/C.1/47/L.42), which was later also sponsored by Belgium, Cameroon, Iceland, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and Samoa. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 26th meeting of the Committee, on 5 November.

6. On 6 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/47/L.42/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by Armenia, Bolivia, Denmark, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia and Thailand. The revised draft resolution contained the following change: a new ninth preambular paragraph was added, which read as follows:

> "Welcoming the conclusion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, which contains an unprecedented regime of verification".

7. At its 31st meeting, on 12 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.42/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/152 O of 16 December 1985, 41/86 Q of 4 December 1986, 42/42 F of 30 November 1987, 43/81 B of 7 December 1988 and 45/65 of 4 December 1990,

Noting that the critical importance of verification of and compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements is universally recognized,

Stressing that the issue of verification of and compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements is a matter of concern to all nations,

Recognizing that the United Nations, in accordance with its role and responsibilities established under the Charter, can make a significant contribution in the field of verification, in particular of multilateral agreements,

Affirming its continued support for the sixteen principles of verification drawn up by the Disarmament Commission, 1/

Noting that recent developments in international relations have underscored the continuing importance of effective verification of existing and future arms limitation and disarmament agreements, and that some of these developments have significant effects on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification, which require careful and ongoing examination,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General 2/ pursuant to the statement adopted by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992, containing his analysis and recommendations on ways of strengthening and making more efficient, within the framework and provisions of the Charter, the capacity of the United Nations for preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building,

Taking note also of the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted on 27 September 1991, 3/ and the activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts on verification,

Welcoming the conclusion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, 4/ which contains an unprecedented regime of verification,

Recalling that in resolution 45/65 it requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on actions taken by Member States and by the United Nations Secretariat to implement the recommendations contained in the concluding chapter of the report of the Group of Qualified Governmental Experts to Undertake a Study on the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification, 5/

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. I, of the quoted text).

2/ A/47/277-S/24111.

3/ BWC/CONF.III/23.

4/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27), appendix I.

5/ A/45/372 and Corr.1.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on actions to implement the recommendations of the in-depth study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification; 6/

2. Encourages Member States to continue to give active consideration to the recommendations contained in the concluding chapter of the study and to assist the Secretary-General in their implementation where appropriate;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification and in view of significant developments in international relations since that study, to seek the views of Member States on:

(a) Additional actions that might be taken to implement the recommendations contained in the study;

(b) How the verification of arms limitation and disarmament agreements can facilitate United Nations activities with respect to preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building;

(c) Additional actions with respect to the role of the United Nations in the field of verification, including further studies by the United Nations on this subject;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification".

6/ A/47/405 and Add.1.